

Statement on the Death of Oseola McCarty

September 27, 1999

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Oseola McCarty of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Ms. McCarty is a true American hero. In 1995 she donated \$150,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi for scholarships for needy students. The extraordinary thing about this gift was that Ms. McCarty accumulated the money from working 75 years washing and ironing people's clothes.

I had the pleasure of awarding this extraordinary woman the Presidential Citizens' Medal

for her extraordinary act of generosity. While we mourn her passing, Oseola McCarty's commitment to the dignity of work, her belief in the power of education, and her extraordinary generosity ensure that her memory will live on for generations to come. Our country needs more people like her, who don't just talk about responsibility and community but who live those values everyday.

Statement on Postponing Deportation of Certain Liberians from the United States

September 27, 1999

Today I directed the Attorney General and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to defer for one year from September 29 the deportation of certain Liberians who are present in the United States on that date. This action is aimed at promoting stability in Liberia and west Africa. In particular, I am concerned that a decision by our Government to deport Liberians who have enjoyed the protection of our

country for many years could cause governments in west Africa to deport many thousands of Liberians in their own countries. This would severely burden Liberia and threaten the fragile peace that has been recently achieved in west Africa. Furthermore, this action preserves the status quo for these Liberians while the Congress actively considers legislative relief for them.

Memorandum on Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

September 27, 1999

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

Over the past 10 years, many Liberians have been forced to flee their country due to civil war and widespread violence. From 1991 through 1999, we have provided Liberians in the United States with Temporary Protected Status because of these difficulties. Although the civil war in Liberia ended in 1996 and conditions have improved such that a further extension of Temporary Protected Status is no longer

warranted, the political and economic situation continues to be fragile. There are compelling foreign policy reasons not to deport these Liberians at this time, including the significant risk that such a decision would cause other countries in West Africa to repatriate involuntarily many thousands of Liberian refugees, leading to instability in Liberia and potentially threatening peace along the Liberian border.

Pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States, I have determined that it is in the foreign